

Remarks

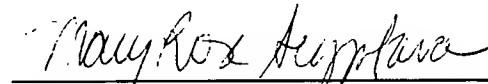
The above-identified application is pending before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and is awaiting substantive review. The Related Applications section of the specification has been amended to accurately reflect the priority claim made under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(2), attached to the end of this Preliminary Amendment is a marked-up version of the specification to show all of the changes relative to the previous version.

An updated Application Data Sheet accompanies this Preliminary Amendment and includes the updated priority information provided herein. No new matter is added with this amendment.

It is believed that no fees are due. If there are any charges, or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

U.S.S.N. 09/998,384

In the Specification at page 1, paragraphs 1 through 3 have been amended as shown.

This application is a continuation in part application of and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from co-pending application serial number 60/298,878 filed June 19, 2001 and entitled "Advanced Process Control for Semiconductor Manufacturing Process."

This application is a continuation in part application of and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from co-pending application serial number 60/305,782, filed July 16, 2001 and entitled "Feedforward and Feedback Control for Conditioning of Chemical Mechanical Polishing Pad."

This application is a continuation in part application of and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from co-pending application serial number 60/318,741, filed September 12, 2001 and entitled "Feedforward and Feedback Control for Conditioning of Chemical Mechanical Polishing Pad."